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(*d*) if excess collections were made, what steps the Government propose to take to see that the practice does not recur, and whether it is contemplated to refund the excess collection?

A.—(*a*) Yes. The rates of fine leviable on sheep and goats trespassing in the Penukonda reserve was increased in 1909 to four annas per head (under section 58 of the Madras Forest Act, 1882), while in the case of the Somandapalli reserve the fine remains at the rate of one anna (fixed in section 12 of the Cattle Trespass Act, 1871). The Collector reports that the pound-keeper of Penukonda has been collecting fines at the enhanced rate on all animals impounded without ascertaining whether they were found grazing in the Penukonda reserve.

(*b*) 182 goats of N. Dasanna and 18 goats of Ediga Rangappa trespassing in Somandepalli reserve were charged at the enhanced rate of four annas each.

(*c*) The enhanced rates for Penukonda reserve were imposed to protect the reserve while it was under cultural operations.

(*d*) The Collector has ordered the refund of the excess amount collected. It is proposed to levy uniform rates in both reserves in future as the cultural operations have ceased.

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" As regards the last part of the answer to clause (*a*), are any steps taken to prevent such occurrences?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" Yes, Sir. The step taken is stated in clause (*d*), and I think it is the most effective step."

Depressed Classes.

Alleged interference of caste people with the depressed classes in Kuditini village.

* 455 *Q.*—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether a copy of mahazar, dated 4th June 1925, submitted by the members of the depressed classes of Kuditini village, Bellary taluk, regarding the interference of the caste people in their religious rites has been received in the Law (General) Department?

A.—Yes.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" May I know what steps the Government have already taken in the matter?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" The Government are awaiting the report from the Collector of Bellary."

Need of house-sites, etc., for Adi-Dravidas of Perungalur cheri, Chidambaram taluk.

* 456 *Q.*—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Adi-Dravidas of Perungalur cheri, Chidambaram taluk, are very badly in need of house-sites, a well and a school, and

(*b*) whether it is a fact that a special overseer ordered the Adi-Dravidas on the 19th May 1925 to dig a pit near their Marriamman temple

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premises which lies in the cheri site itself with a view to test the water before actually sinking a well for them and the same action was prevented by the village munsif including a mirasidar of the place?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) Yes.

Mr. R. Veerian :—"In this case also, may I know what steps have already been taken?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—"With regard to clause (*a*) I understand that the District Labour Officer is making arrangements to provide house-sites, well and school, and as regards clause (*b*) I understand that the order has been withdrawn on the intervention of the Collector and the well will be completed as soon as possible."

Forests.

Indianization of the Service of Conservators of Forests.

* 457 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. Saldanha : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) what steps Government are taking to indianize the Forest Conservative service ; and

(*b*) (i) whether Government have made or contemplate making any appointments for that purpose ; and

(ii) if so, who have been appointed and what are their qualifications, place of birth, religion and antecedents?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the classified list of Forest Officers in the Madras Presidency (with Coorg) corrected up to 1st July 1925 from which it will be seen that of the last 11 officers appointed to the Indian Forest Service, 10 are Indians. Information as to their qualifications is appended.[a]

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—"Mr. Saldanha's question, as I understand, is as to how many Forest Conservators were Indians but here the numbers given relate to the whole Forest service, both European and Indian. May I request the hon. Member whether he will be pleased to look into the matter and, if there is absolutely no Indian Conservator appointed, to see that one is appointed next time?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—"I will look into it, Sir."

Jails.

Alleged rape of a female prisoner in the Adoni Jail.

* 458 *Q.*—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Mastan Sahib, Sub-Jail Warder, Adoni, Bellary district, was transferred to Alur as a punishment for failing to report to the Sub-Jail Superintendent at Adoni that a female prisoner complained of rape by a police officer ;

(*b*) whether the Divisional Officer, Adoni, held any inquiry into the alleged complaint and if so, with what result ;

[a] Printed as Appendix IV on page 845 infra.